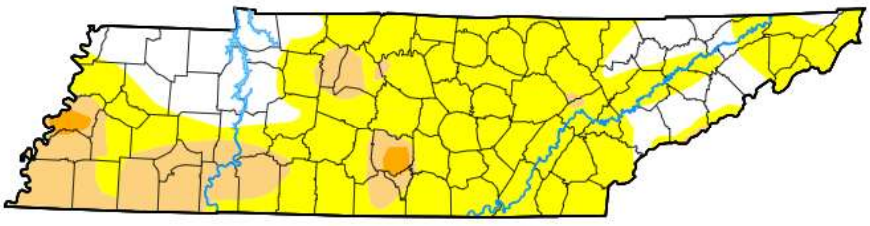
Tennessee Drought Update

For the assessment period ending September 15, 2026

This Week's Drought Monitor of Tennessee Map

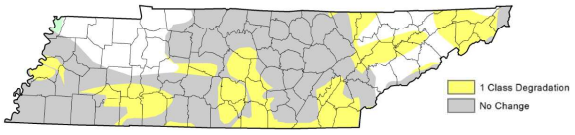
From the US Drought Monitor, authored by David Mocko, NASA/GSFC/SSAI, with input from the Tennessee Climate Office



Another week of drier than normal conditions resulted in expansion of Moderate Drought and introduction of Severe Drought conditions in southwest TN and parts of Middle TN.

Drier than normal conditions resulted in expansion of Abnormally Dry conditions in the eastern half of TN.

Change Since Last Week



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Statewide Condition Summary

What's Changed? Precipitation was below normal for most of the state except for parts of West TN and northern Middle TN for the last drought monitoring period (09/08-09/15). High temperatures were 6-12°F above normal across much of the state (~3-6°F in northeast TN), with almost all weather stations in the state recording much above average temps.

What's New? Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded across the eastern half of TN and southern TN, while Moderate Drought (D1) conditions also expanded across southwest TN and parts of southern Middle TN. New areas of Severe Drought (D2) conditions were introduced in parts of southern Middle TN, primarily in Bedford County and in Lauderdale/Tipton counties along the Mississippi River.

What's Next? Most areas across the state are forecast to receive below normal rainfall with less than 0.50" expected. A few areas long the Cumberland Plateau and far northeast TN are expected to receive up to 1.25" of precipitation during the next drought monitoring period (09/15-09/22). Well above normal high temperatures are also expected to persist across the state through the next drought monitoring period. This could lead to further expansion of abnormally dry and drought conditions in many locations.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	61.97%	+11.92%
D1: Moderate Drought	16.28%	+5.52%
D2: Severe Drought	1.10%	+1.10%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

Icon Library

No Precipitation

Increasing drought conditions

Rivers and Streams

Precipitation

Temperatures

Snowfall

Improvement

A mixture of improving and worsening conditions

No Change

Worsening conditions

Hurricane/Tropical storm

